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14th MARCH, 1804.

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Mr. EARLY'S motion, in committee of the whole House, to amend the Bill sent from the Senate, intituled, "*An act erecting Louisiana into two Territories, and providing for the temporary government thereof,*" proposed to be the fourth section of the said bill.

1     SECT. 4. The legislative powers shall be vested in the go-  
2     vernor, and in thirteen of the most fit and discreet persons of the  
3     territory, to be called the legislative council, who shall be ap-  
4     pointed (by the President of the United States,) from among those  
5     holding real estate therein, and who shall have resided one year  
6     at least in the said territory, and hold no office of profit under the  
7     territory or the United States, to serve one year from the time of  
8     their appointment: And the said legislative council shall at their  
9     first session, lay off or divide the said territory into convenient  
10    counties or districts, and apportion among them according to their  
11    respective numbers, the thirteen members of the said legislative  
12    council, who shall after the expiration of one year, from the time  
13    of their first appointment be chosen annually by all the free male

14 white persons of the age of twenty-one years, who were resident  
5 in said territory on the thirtieth day of April, one thousand eight  
16 hundred and three, and who had been resident therein one whole  
17 year next before the election, on their producing satisfactory proof  
18 to the officers of the election that they have taken an oath of  
19 allegiance to the United States, agreeably to an act of Congress,  
20 passed on the fourteenth day of April, one thousand eight hun-  
21 dred and two, entitled "An act to establish an uniform rule of  
22 naturalization, and to repeal the acts heretofore passed on that  
23 subject;" and by citizens of the United States, who may since  
24 that time have become residents in said territory, and who shall  
25 have resided therein one whole year, six months of that time next  
26 before the election, to be in the district or county in which he or  
27 they shall *vote*; and the legislative council so chosen as aforesaid,  
28 shall have power to fix the times and places, and to determine the  
29 manner of holding the said elections, and to judge of the qualifi-  
30 cations of the members, and the validity of their elections. But  
31 if any of the said districts or counties shall refuse or neglect to  
32 make such election for one month, after the time appointed for  
33 holding the same, then the governor with the council, shall ap-  
34 point a person or persons who shall reside within the district, and  
35 and be qualified as aforesaid to serve for the district or county so  
36 neglecting or refusing. The governor, by and with the advice  
37 and consent of the legislative council, or a majority of them, shall  
38 have power to alter, modify, or repeal the laws which may be in

39 force at the commencement of this act. Their legislative powers  
40 shall also extend to all the rightful powers of legislation ; but no law  
41 shall be valid, which is inconsistent with the constitution and laws  
42 of the United States, or which shall lay any person under restraint,  
43 burthen, or disability, on account of his religious opinions, pro-  
44 fessions, or worship, in all which he shall be free to maintain his  
45 own, and not burthened for those of another. The governor shall  
46 publish, throughout the said territory, all the laws which shall be  
47 made ; and shall, from time to time, report the same to the Presi-  
48 dent of the United States, to be laid before congress, which, if  
49 disapproved by congress, shall thenceforth be of no force. The  
50 governor or legislative council shall have no power over the pri-  
51 mary disposal of the soil, nor tax the lands of the United States,  
52 nor to interfere with the claims to land within the said territory.  
53 The governor shall convene and prorogue the legislative council,  
54 whenever he may deem it expedient. It shall be his duty to  
55 obtain all the information in his power, in relation to the customs,  
56 habits, and dispositions of the inhabitants of the said territory,  
57 and communicate the same, from time to time, to the President of  
58 the United States.